

## **REMARKS**

### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-12, 14, 16-26, 28-30, 32-36, 38, 39, 41, and 42 are pending. Claims 1-12, 14, 16-26, 28-30, 32-36, 38, 39, 41, and 42 have been rejected. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 14, 18, 28, 30, and 38. Claims 11-13, 15, 22-24, 27, 31, 34, 37, and 39-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

### **35 U.S.C. §101 Rejections**

The Office has rejected claims 1-12, 14, 16-26, 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101, at paragraph 21 of the Final Action dated May 13, 2008 (the “Final Office Action”), as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have canceled claims 11-12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites a service support system that includes a service support processor and memory to store instructions executable by the service support processor. Therefore, claim 1 is statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, and are therefore statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Independent claim 14 recites a work force administration system including a processor to execute instructions stored in memory and a memory accessible to the processor, the memory storing a dispatch module including processor-executable instructions. Applicants submit that claim 14 is statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 14, and are therefore statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Independent claim 18 recites a processor adapted to execute instructions stored in memory and a memory accessible by the processor, the memory including an assignment module storing processor that includes executable instructions and an order status monitoring module that includes executable instructions. Applicants submit that claim 18 is statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101. Applicants have canceled claims 22-24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19-21 and 25-26 depend from claim 14, and are therefore statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Independent claim 28 recites a processor to post a web page, the web page based at least in part upon processor-executable instructions associated with the web page and stored in memory, and a memory storing an order status monitoring module comprising processor-executable instructions associated with the web page. Applicants submit that claim 28 is statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claim 29 depends from claim 28, and is therefore statutory under 35 U.S.C. §101.

**Claims 1-10, 14, 16, 17, and 30, and 32-36 are Allowable**

The Office has rejected claims 1-12, 14, 16, 17, and 30-36, at paragraphs 16-17 of the Final Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Weigel, Don; Cao, Buyang; “Applying GIS and OR Techniques to Solve Sears Technician-Dispatching and Home-Delivery Problems,” Jan/Feb 1999, Interfaces, 29, 1; ABI/INFORM Global pp. 112-130 (“Weigel”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,607 (“Bogart”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,005 (“Lesaint”). Claims 11, 12, 31 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest a service support system to assign a first service request to a technician from a pool of available technicians based at least in part on a historical performance statistic of the technician and a first location of the technician determined at least in part from global positioning location data associated with a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 1. Instead, Weigel discloses a system that determines an Origin-Destination matrix for resource assignment, in which each truck driver starts and ends at the delivery center. *See* Weigel, p. 118, col. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 3-4. In further contrast to claim 1, Weigel determines OD matrices by utilizing parameters including a technician’s skills, minimum impedance, maximum impedance, minimum candidate (minimum number of locations the technician should reach from a starting location), and maximum candidate (maximum number of locations the technician can reach from a starting location). *See* Weigel, p. 119, col. 1, lines 9-22. In further contrast to claim 1, Weigel uses GIS data to map out a technician’s route. *See* Weigel, p. 115, col. 1, line 10 – col. 2, line 18. Applicants respectfully submit that Geographic Information System (GIS) data differs from a GPS system. The cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest assigning a first service

request to a technician from a pool of available technicians based at least in part on a location of the technician determined at least in part from global positioning location data associated with a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 1.

Further, the cited portions of Bogart do not disclose or suggest a service support system to assign a first service request to a technician from a pool of available technicians based at least in part on a historical performance statistic of the technician and a first location of the technician determined at least in part from global positioning location data associated with a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 1. Instead, Bogart discloses generating a service profile for skill X for agent Z, determining which agents are available or nearly available, and selects the agent with the best combined score to handle the call. *See* Bogart, col. 5, lines 36-67. Additionally, the cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest a service support system to assign a first service request to a technician from a pool of available technicians based at least in part on a historical performance statistic of the technician and a first location of the technician determined at least in part from global positioning location data associated with a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 1. Instead, Lesaint discloses providing initial information relating to tasks to be allocated and resources available, providing updated information relating to the tasks and resources and modifying an initial schedule in response to the updated information. *See* Lesaint, col. 3, lines 11-28.

In Lesaint, a provisional schedule may be calculated for a technician, which may change if the technician reports a task completion early, or fails to report at an estimated time of completion, or if new tasks are requested after the provisional schedule has been created. *See* Lesaint, col., 8, lines 12-17. The cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose assigning a service request based at least in part on a service support system to assign a first service request to a technician from a pool of available technicians based at least in part on a historical performance statistic of the technician and a first location of the technician determined at least in part from global positioning location data associated with a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart, and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 2-10 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

In addition, the dependent claims include features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. For example, the cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest a geo-location interface configured to access the GPS locator to determine the first location of the technician, the second location of the technician, or any combination thereof, as in claim 2. In contrast to claim 2, Weigel discloses using geographic information system techniques and data to build an origin-destination (OD) matrix based on locations associated with service order and deliveries. *See* Weigel, page 118. The cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest accessing a GPS locator. Further, the cited portions of Bogart do not disclose or suggest this element of claim 2. Instead, Bogart discloses generating a service profile for skill X for agent Z, determining which agents are available or nearly available, and selects the agent with the best combined score to handle the call. *See* Bogart, col. 5, lines 36-67. Further, the cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest a geo-location interface configured to access a GPS locator to determine the first location of the technician, the second location of the technician, or any combination thereof, as in claim 2. Instead, Lesaint discloses a method and system that enables service providers to receive an order for a mobile customer, receive customer location information from a location determination system, and schedule the completion of the customer's order to coincide with the customer's arrival at a local facility able to satisfy the customer's order. *See* Lesaint, Abstract. For this additional reason, claim 2 is allowable.

Further, the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a service request status interface that is accessible to one entity (the CLEC) and a technician assigned to the service request who is associated with a second entity (the ILEC), as in claim 5. The Final Office Action states that "it is old and well known in the art for service technicians to be associated with an ILEC." *See* Final Office Action, page 26. Applicants traverse this statement. It is never appropriate to rely solely on "common knowledge" in the art without evidentiary support in the record, as the principal evidence upon which a rejection was based. *Zurko*, 258 F.3d at 1385, and MPEP 2144.03 (A). The Examiner must provide specific factual findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support his or her conclusion of common knowledge. *See Soli*, 317 F.2d at 946, and MPEP

2144.03 (B). Applicants submit that the Office has not provided any reasoning or basis to support the statement.

Further, Applicants submit that claim 5 recites that “the service request status interface is accessible to a competitive local exchange carrier and wherein the technician is associated with an ILEC.” Applicants submit that the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest this element of claim 5. For this additional reason, claim 5 is allowable.

The cited portions of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 14. For example, the cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest a dispatch module configured to access technician statistics associated with each of a plurality of technicians, the technician statistics indicating an expected travel time to a location associated with the service order and an expected time remaining to complete a current task, wherein the expected travel time for each respective technician is based on a location of the respective technician relative to the location associated with the service order, where the location of the respective technician is determined at least in part from a global positioning location received from a Global Positioning System (GPS), as in claim 14. Rather, Weigel discloses assigning routes before dispatching service or delivery personnel, based on parameters including the technician’s skills, on minimum time a technician must travel, maximum allowed time a technician can travel from one location to another, minimum number of locations the technician should reach from a starting location, and the maximum number of locations the technician can reach from a starting location. *See* Weigel, page 119, col. 1, lines 9-22. (Emphasis added.) In further contrast, Weigel discloses use of a Geographic Information System (GIS) with an integrated view environment module. Bogart discloses that upon an agent becoming available or arriving at the head of one of the agent queues, a selector determines which skills the idle agent possesses and which of those skills have non-empty corresponding call queues. *See* Bogart, col. 6, lines 12-19. The cited portions of Bogart do not disclose or suggest a dispatch module configured to access technician statistics associated with each of a plurality of technicians, the technician statistics indicating an expected travel time to a location associated with the service order and an expected time remaining to complete a current task, wherein the expected travel time for each respective technician is based on a location of the respective technician relative to the location associated with the service order, where the location of the respective technician is

determined at least in part from a global positioning location received from a Global Positioning System (GPS), as in claim 14. Lesaint discloses that technicians can use their terminals for reporting completion of a task and for receiving instructions from a computer for performing the next task. *See* Lesaint, col. 7, lines 19-22. The cited portion of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest a dispatch module configured to access technician statistics associated with each of a plurality of technicians, the technician statistics indicating an expected travel time to a location associated with the service order and an expected time remaining to complete a current task, wherein the expected travel time for each respective technician is based on a location of the respective technician relative to the location associated with the service order, where the location of the respective technician is determined at least in part from a global positioning location received from a Global Positioning System (GPS). Therefore, the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 14. Hence, claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 16-17 depend from claim 14, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 16-17 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 14.

Further, the dependent claims recite additional features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. For example, the cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest a dispatch module that utilizes the global positioning system location received from the GPS system based at least in part on GPS data generated by a GPS locator associated with the technician to formulate dispatch instructions, as in claim 16. Instead, Weigel discloses using geographic information system techniques and data to build an origin-destination (OD) matrix based on locations associated with service order and deliveries. *See* Weigel, page 118. (Emphasis added.) Further, the cited portions of Bogart do not disclose or suggest this element of claim 16. Instead, Bogart discloses selecting the agent with the best combined score to handle the call, where the factors of a service profile include expertise, proficiency, profitability, etc. *See* Bogart, col. 5, lines 18-67. Further, the cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest a dispatch module that utilizes the global positioning location received from the GPS system based at least in part on GPS data generated by a GPS locator associated with the technician to formulate dispatch instructions, as in claim 16. Instead, Lesaint discloses considering traveling

time necessary to reach a location of a task from present location. *See* Lesaint, col. 7, line 66-col. 8, line 4. For this additional reason, claim 16 is allowable.

The cited portions of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 30. The Office Action admits that Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest determining a location of a technician of a plurality of available technicians based on near real-time Global Positioning System data, as in claim 30. *See* Final Office Action, paragraph 11.

The Final Office Action takes Official Notice that assigning the service request to the technician based at least in part on a historical technician performance statistic and the location of the technician as determined at least in part based on the near real-time GPS data is old and well known in that art, citing U.S. Patent No. 6,026,375 (“Hall”) in support of the Official Notice. *See* Final Office Action, paragraph 11. Applicants traverse the assertion.

In contrast to claim 30, Hall discloses a method and system that enables service providers to receive an order from a mobile customer, receive customer location information from a location determination system, and schedule completion of the customer’s order to coincide with the customer’s arrival at a local facility able to satisfy the customer’s order. *See* Hall, Abstract. Thus, the cited portions of Hall disclose a mobile customer whose order will be fulfilled at a local facility, and timed for the customer’s arrival at that facility. *See* Hall Abstract. The cited portions of Hall do not disclose or suggest assigning a service request to the technician based at least in part on a historical technician performance statistic and the location of the technician as determined at least in part based on the near real-time GPS data. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Official Notice is not supported by the cited portions of Hall.

Applicants further submit that the Office has not presented any rationale to support combining a near real time global positioning system (GPS) with the disclosures of Weigel, Lesaint and Bogart. For example, the Office has not shown how a GPS might be combined with the disclosures of Weigel, Lesaint and Bogart, or whether the references would be compatible with GPS, and whether the combination would be expected to produce a successful result. For example, Applicants assert that the cited portions of Weigel do not disclose or suggest assigning a first service request to a technician based at least in part on a location of the technician

(location based on near real-time GPS data), as in claim 30. Instead, Weigel discloses an address matching decoding module that matches the address of a customer requiring service to a node in the geographic street database, selects an individual technician and assigns a new seed point location. *See* Weigel, p. 115, col. 1, lines 18-21, and col. 2, lines 14-18. (Emphasis added.) In Weigel, a technician is selected based upon a pre-planned route of the technician, the pre-planned route having a particular seed point (i.e., geographic centroid of a desired working area), and reassigning the seed point location. *See* Weigel, p. 115, col. 1, line 18-col. 2, line 18. (Emphasis added.) Further, Weigel uses distance and other customer information, such as imposed time windows, to generate final routes for home delivery or home service. *See* Weigel, Fig. 1. (Emphasis added.) In contrast to claim 30, in Weigel, the first service request is not assigned to a technician based at least in part on a location of the technician as determined at least in part based on near real-time GPS data.

Further, the cited portions of Bogart do not disclose or suggest assigning a first service request to a technician based at least in part on a location of the technician, as in claim 30. Instead, Bogart discloses generating a service profile for skill X for agent Z, determining which agents are available or nearly available, and selecting the agent with the best combined score to handle the call. *See* Bogart, col. 5, lines 36-67. Lesaint discloses providing initial information relating to tasks to be allocated and resources available, providing updated information relating to the tasks and resources and modifying an initial schedule in response to the updated information. *See* Lesaint, col. 3, lines 11-28. (Emphasis added.) In Lesaint, a provisional schedule may be calculated for a technician, which may change if the technician reports a task completion early, or fails to report at an estimated time of completion, or if new tasks are requested after the provisional schedule has been created. *See* Lesaint, col., 8, lines 12-17. Lesaint does not disclose assigning a service request based at least in part on a location of the technician as determined at least in part based on near real-time GPS data. Therefore, the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart, and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 30.

For at least the reasons provided above, Applicants submit that claim 30 is allowable. Claims 32-33 and 35-36 depend from claim 30, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.



Hence, claims 32-33 and 35-36 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 30.

Further, the dependent claims recite additional features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart, and Lesaint. For example, the cited portions of Weigel, Bogart, and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest accessing a central office equipment management system via a frame system interface, the service assignment module configured to transfer frame related service requests to the central office equipment management system via the frame system interface, as in claim 35. For this additional reason, claim 35 is allowable.

Additionally, with regard to claims 1-12, 14, 16, 17, 30, 32-33, 35-36 and 42, the Final Office Action presents no rationale to combine Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint. “Determination of obviousness can not be based on the hindsight combination of components selectively culled from the prior art to fit the parameters of the patented invention. There must be a teaching or suggestion within the prior art, or within the general knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention, to look to particular sources of information, to select particular elements, and to combine them in the way they were combined by the inventor.” *ATD Corp. v. Lydall, Inc.*, 159 F.3d 534, 48 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 1998), *see also KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2007) No. 04–1350, citing *Monroe Auto Equipment Co. v. Heckethorn Mfg & Supply Co.*, 332 F.2d 406, 412 (1964) (warning against a “temptation to read into the prior art the teachings of the invention in issue”). Weigel is directed to a system that generates and optimizes final routes for service and delivery personnel before the personnel have started their routes. *See* Weigel, page 112, and Fig. 1. (Emphasis added.) In contrast to Weigel, Bogart is directed to a call center call distribution system that assigns calls to call center agents based on data indicating each agent’s ability to handle a particular incoming call. *See* Bogart, col. 3, lines 11-26. (Emphasis added.) Lesaint is directed toward generating initial schedules and modifying the initial schedules in response to updated information. *See* Lesaint, col. 3, lines 35-38, and Abstract. Applicants submit that the cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose use of GPS data. Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint address different and unrelated problems. Neither Weigel, nor Bogart, nor Lesaint disclose or suggest any motivation to combine the delivery and service route generator of Weigel, with the call center call distribution system of Bogart, and with the schedule updating method of Lesaint. Therefore, the only motivation to look to the particular references,

to select the particular elements cited in the Office Action, and to combine them in the manner stated in the Office Action comes from Applicants' disclosure. This constitutes an impermissible hindsight rejection based on Applicants' disclosure. Hence, the rejection of claims 1-12, 14, 16, 17, 30-33, 35-36, and 42 over the combination of Weigel, Bogart and Lesaint is improper and should be withdrawn.

**Claims 18-26, 28, 29, 38 and 39 are Allowable**

The Office has rejected claims 18-26, 28, 29, 38, and 39, at paragraph 15 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over "NYNEX utilizes PEN\*KEY® mobile computers to retrieve information and execute transfer activity," pages 1-4, retrieved from: [web.archive.org/web/19980206125452/www.norand.com/case\\_nynex\\_more.html](http://web.archive.org/web/19980206125452/www.norand.com/case_nynex_more.html) ("Norand Reference A"); "Tech X-press," pages 1-2, retrieved from: [web.archive.org/web/19980206122627/www.norand.com/sol\\_fieldservice\\_tech.html](http://web.archive.org/web/19980206122627/www.norand.com/sol_fieldservice_tech.html) ("Norand Reference B"); "Are You Getting Ready to Catch the Wireless Wave?" pages 1-8 retrieved from: [web.archive.org/web/19980206122343/www.norand.com/wp\\_wirelesswave.html](http://web.archive.org/web/19980206122343/www.norand.com/wp_wirelesswave.html) ("Norand Reference C"); and "Introducing the Norand RapidREP™ Solution from Intermec Technologies Corporation," retrieved from: [web.archive.org/web/19980206114807/www.norand.com/pr\\_rapidrep.html](http://web.archive.org/web/19980206114807/www.norand.com/pr_rapidrep.html) ("Norand Reference D"), in view of Lesaint. Applicants have canceled claims 22-24 and 39 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of Norand Reference A, Norand Reference B, Norand Reference C, and Norand Reference D (the "Norand References"), and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 18. For example, the cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest a memory accessible by the processor, the memory storing a frame order management system interface including processor-executable instructions that when executed, cause the processor to directly manipulate a central office equipment management system via communication with a frame order management system, as in claim 18. *See* Examiner's Response to Arguments, Final Office Action, paragraph 15, pp. 11-12. Therefore, the cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 18. Hence, claim 18 is allowable.

Claims 19-21 and 25-26 depend from claim 18, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 19-21 and 25-26 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 18.

The cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint, separately or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 28. For example, the cited portions of the Norand References do not disclose or suggest a memory storing processor-executable instructions associated with the web page that when executed by the processor, provides access to frame order completion data associated with a service request, the frame order completion data based at least in part on work completed on central office equipment or regional office equipment, as in claim 28. Instead, Norand Reference A discloses a mobile computer having an ability to serve as data display, to provide communications and to offer testing capability. *See* Norand Reference A, page 2, paragraph 4. Further, the cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest this element of claim 28. Therefore, the Norand References and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 28. Therefore, claim 28 is allowable.

Claim 29 depends from claim 28, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, the Norand References and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element claim 29. Accordingly, claim 29 is also allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 28.

The cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 38. For example, the cited portions of the Norand References do not disclose or suggest assigning a first task related to a service request to a first technician via a mobile technician interface, where the first task is assigned based at least in part on a technician location determined at least in part based on data received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 38. Instead, Norand Reference C discloses that global positioning systems expand the types of industries that can use and leverage such technologies in their operations. *See* Norand Reference C, page 2, paragraph 1. Norand Reference B discloses that dispatchers can more effectively assign calls and manage resources based on real-time information from the field. *See* Norand Reference B, p. 2, paragraph 1. The cited portions of the

Norand References do not disclose or suggest assigning a first task related to a service request to a first technician via a mobile technician interface, where the first task is assigned based at least in part on a technician location determined at least in part based on data received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator. Lesaint discloses that a revised schedule to be passed to a technician details location of the technician and predicted completion time. *See* Lesaint, col. 31, lines 34-38. The cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest assigning a first task related to a service request to a first technician via a mobile technician interface, where the first task is assigned based at least in part on data received from a GPS locator. Therefore, the cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose this element of claim 38. Hence, claim 38 is allowable.

#### **Claims 41-50 are Allowable**

Claim 41 depends from claim 28, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claim 41 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 28. In addition, the cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint fail to disclose or suggest a service request that relates to a first task associated with the service order completion data, where the first task is assigned based at least in part on a technician location determined at least in part based on data received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator, as in claim 41. Instead, Norand Reference C discloses that global positioning systems expand the types of industries that can use and leverage such technologies in their operations. *See* Norand Reference C, page 2, paragraph 1. Norand Reference B discloses that dispatchers can more effectively assign calls and manage resources based on real-time information from the field. *See* Norand Reference B, p. 2, paragraph 1. The cited portions of the Norand References do not disclose or suggest a first task assigned based at least in part on a technician location determined at least in part based on data received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator. Lesaint discloses that a revised schedule to be passed to a technician details location of the technician and predicted completion time. *See* Lesaint, col. 31, lines 34-38. The cited portions of Lesaint do not disclose or suggest technician location determined at least in part based on data received from a Global Positioning System (GPS) locator. Therefore, the cited portions of the Norand References and Lesaint, separately or in combination, fail to disclose this element of claim 41. For this additional reason, claim 41 is allowable.

Claim 42 depends from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claim 41 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1.

Applicants have added new claims 43-50, which are supported by the Specification. Claims 43-46 depend from claim 18, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claims 43-46 are allowable. Claims 47-48 depend from claim 38, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claims 47-48 are allowable. Claim 49 depends from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claim 49 is allowable. Claim 50 depends from claim 30, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore, claim 50 is allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.


Any changes to the claims in this response that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited portions of the cited art should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

8-13-2008  
Date

  
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